

Health briefing

Area Panel Five

March 2006

Welcome to our March Health Briefing

Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) work together to improve the health of people across the city, and make sure the health services they need are available. Their job is to:

- work out what is needed to improve local people's health
- provide some services themselves – such as community services including clinics, district nurses, children's services and health visitors
- buy some services from others – such as larger hospitals and specialist treatments.

The PCTs will be providing a local Health Briefing for each Area Panel meeting.

If you have any questions you can either direct them through the Area Panel Manager - Richard Smail on 01332 258505 or contact us direct:

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In this issue

In this issue you will find details of:

- our health, our care, our say
- smoke free Derby Charter.

Our health, our care, our say

In 2005 the Department of Health carried out two major consultations asking members of the public to give their views on key issues involving adult social care and health and social care services in the community. They received around 142,000 responses. This information helped to build up a picture of how people feel about health and social care services.

The newly published White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' explains in detail the improvements the government is going to make, why it feels these changes are necessary and the steps it's taking to make sure they happen – backed up by research figures and statistics.

Developments over the next five years include:

- offering people in vulnerable situations more support
- more new GP surgeries
- new modern NHS community hospitals
- more NHS Walk-in Centres

- improving access to information and information prescriptions for those with a long-term need
- NHS life check
- joint health and social care teams
- information service for carers.

The changes will give people more choice about the services they receive, which will, in turn, give them more power to influence the type and standard of service offered locally. All organisations providing health and social care services will be expected to:

- seek the views and wishes of patients and service users
- act on these views
- involve local people in decision-making.

For more information please visit the Department of Health's website at www.dh.gov.uk/publications

You can download a summary of the White Paper, an easy read summary and the full document.



Smoke free Derby Charter

On national No Smoking Day – Wednesday 8 March 2006, Central and Greater Derby PCTs and Derby City Council launched a campaign to make Derby smoke free.

The PCTs and the Council have already banned smoking in their own buildings

and offer support to employees who want to give up.

Sara Bolton, Cabinet Member for Environment and Direct Services, and Chair of Central Derby PCT John Beswarick signed a charter which will commit the organisations to helping people stop smoking, protecting others from second-hand smoke and preventing the sale of cigarettes to children.

The PCTs and the Council will work with other Derby employers and organisations to protect people from smoking as well as the Police and HM Revenue & Customs to tackle tobacco smuggling and counterfeiting.

Protecting and improving the health of local people is a top priority for our organisations. This cannot be achieved without determined action to protect the public from the damaging effects of tobacco smoke.



Area Panels are welcome to contact the PCT with questions, or to invite a representative from the PCT to speak at an Area Panel meeting if there is a particular subject of interest to the Panel.

You can contact us at the address overleaf.